

6-11-97

FACT SHEET

NOTICE OF SOURCE CATEGORY LISTINGS FOR THE SPECIFIC POLLUTANTS (SECTION 112(c)(6))

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a draft list to add to the list of industry groups (known as “source categories”) that emit the seven hazardous air pollutants namely, alkylated lead compounds, polycyclic organic matter (POM), hexachlorobenzene, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzofurans (TCDF) and 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD). Hazardous air pollutants are also known as air toxics; these are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects such as birth defects or reproductive effects.
- ◆ The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required EPA to identify the sources of 90 percent of the emissions of each of these pollutants. Further, the Act requires EPA to subject these sources to technology-based standards (under section 112(d)(2), known as maximum achievable control technology or MACT) or determine that their emissions do not violate established health thresholds (under section 112(d)(4)).
- ◆ In response to these requirements and in order to protect public health and the environment, EPA plans to add the following source categories to the list for regulation:
 - Open Burning of Scrap Tires
 - Gasoline Distribution Stage I Aviation, includes evaporative losses associated with the distribution and storage of aviation gas containing lead
 - Wood Treatment/Wood Preservation, includes small (so-called “area”) sources that treat wood with chemicals for preservation purposes

HOW DID EPA EVALUATE THE SOURCES OF THE SEVEN POLLUTANTS?

- ◆ In order to determine the sources of the seven air toxics, EPA developed emission inventories of known sources of each pollutant. Emissions inventories consist of estimates of annual emissions to the air from all sources (with available data) such as power plants, chemical plants, automobiles, and forest fires. Using this inventory data, EPA identified the sources of the *total* emissions of these seven pollutants. However, EPA did not further evaluate certain types of sources that could not appropriately be addressed under the authorities of section 112 of the Clean Air Act. These excluded sources are wildfires and prescribed burning, mobile sources (cars, airplanes, etc.), residential combustion sources (fireplaces, woodstoves, oil and coal heaters), and pesticide application. EPA evaluated the remaining categories of sources to determine whether they were currently

regulated or scheduled for regulation under sections 112(d)(2) or (d)(4).

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactum from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- ◆ Section 112(c)(6) of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the source categories that emit 90 percent of the aggregate emissions for each of the seven specific pollutants and add any source categories not previously identified to the list discussed above.
- ◆ These seven pollutants [alkylated lead compounds, polycyclic organic matter (POM), hexachlorobenzene, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzofurans (TCDF) and 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD)] were among the pollutants of concern identified by the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada, and the Great Lakes Commission, as well as EPA's Great Waters Program because of their persistence and tendency to bioaccumulate in the environment. These pollutants are also associated with adverse health effects such as nervous system damage and reproductive effects.
- ◆ EPA is not planning to list some source categories that contribute to emissions of the seven pollutants, because these sources are subject to other regulations within the Clean Air Act. For example:
 - 1) Utility emissions are addressed under EPA's utility air toxics study.
 - 2) Medical and municipal waste emissions are regulated under EPA's solid waste combustion standards.
 - 3) Combustion sources are included in EPA's on-going effort to develop the Industrial Combustion Coordinated Rulemaking.
 - 4) Gasoline distribution sources are controlled by EPA's "on-board" vapor recovery regulations and "stage II" vapor recovery programs.
- ◆ In today's action, EPA is planning to credit these other sections of the Clean Air Act with meeting the goals and requirements of section 112(c)(6). EPA believes additional regulation could lead to a redundant regulatory effort with little or no additional environmental benefit.

WHAT SOURCE CATEGORIES IS EPA ARE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT LIST?

- ◆ A review of the available data indicates that a substantial majority of source categories emitting the seven pollutants have already been listed for regulations under section 112(d)(2) or are subject to comparable regulation under other authorities. As a result, EPA is planning to add the following three additional source category listings to satisfy the requirements of section 112(c)(6):
 - Open Burning of Scrap Tires
 - Gasoline Distribution Stage I Aviation, includes evaporative losses associated with the distribution and storage of aviation gas containing lead
 - Wood Treatment/Wood Preservation, includes small (so-called “area”) sources that treat wood with chemicals for preservation purposes

NEXT STEPS

- ◆ After evaluating public comments on this draft listing, EPA intends to issue a final list in December, 1997.
- ◆ Following publication of the final list, EPA intends to proceed to develop technology standards for the additional source categories under section 112(d)(2).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ◆ Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the Federal Register Notice and the emissions inventory documentation from the CHIEF bulletin board of the EPA’s electronic Technology Transfer Network (TTN) bulletin board by calling the InfoCHIEF help desk at (919) 541-5742. The documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/airtox/112c6fac.html>. For further information about how to access the TTN, call (919) 541-5384. The complete Section 112(c)(6) Federal Register Notice and background documentation is available through EPA’s Air and Radiation Docket (Docket Number A-97-05) and Information Center by calling (202) 260-7548 or - 7549 or FAX (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying). For technical questions about the Specific Pollutants (Section 112(c)(6)) Federal Register Notice, contact Laurel Driver at (919) 541-2859.
- ◆ EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation’s home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air pollution programs including air toxics issues. The Office of Air and Radiation’s home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).